

BEYOND THE BEACH 50 THRILLING ADVENTURES

WYOMING

1 | THE WILDEST HORSE RIDE IN THE STATES

Big skies, crashing hooves, the yip of coyotes as the campfire crackles after dark... A week on horseback through Wyoming, led by a veteran cowboy, is the American dream come true. Few ranches run cattle drives, so you'll need to book through a specialist travel agent. Catering for intermediate equestrians, the ride begins the day after arrival, under the watchful eye of the trail boss – but with chances to gallop free, too. Breakfasts are hearty and camps comfortable – a relief, since up to seven hours a day are spent in the saddle.

The lowdown: Equitours (00 1 307 455 3363, www.ridingtours.com) offers an 11-day guided trip in Wyoming from around £1,600, all in, except flights. BA (0844 493 0787, www.ba.com) has returns to

Las Vegas – a two-hour drive from the starting point at St George – from £549.

ALTERNATIVES

- Try cattle-driving in Arizona, Montana or British Columbia; from around £1,399pp a week, including flights, accommodation and food, with Ranch America (0845 277 3306, www.ranchamerica.co.uk).
- Competent riders could consider a trail ride from Utah to the Grand Canyon. Sleeping under canvas, a six-night trip starts at £1,105pp with Unicorn Trails (01767 600606, www.unicorntrails.com), including food; flights extra.
- American Round-up (01798 865946, www.americanroundup.com) has a week at Rankin Ranch, outside Los Angeles, from £894pp, all in, not including flights. Virgin Atlantic (0844 874 7747, www.virgin-atlantic.co.uk) flies to LA from £559 return.

Saddle up and learn how to 'lope' (canter at speed) on a ranch in the States



